

III. **REMARKS**

A check for \$275.00 is enclosed to cover the cost of 11 dependent claims in excess of 20 claims sent with our amendment mailed on December 21, 2005. The claims added are dependent to those claims previously submitted and do not add new matter. If any other charges or fees must be paid in connection with the following Communication, they may be paid out of our deposit account 12-0913.

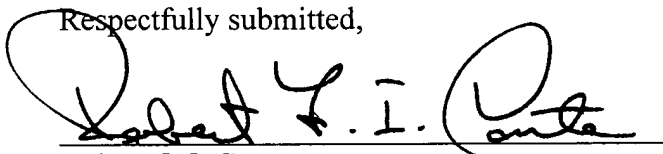
Claims 17-26 have been cancelled.

Claims 7 and 8 are patentable over the prior art for reasons set for in our previous response.

Claims 32 to 40 are dependent on claims 7 and 8 and patently distinguish over the Revsback et al 97/46853 reference.

It is submitted that claims 7 - 11, 13 - 16, and 27 - 40 patently distinguish over the Revsback et al 97/46853 reference and are now in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert F. I. Conte", is written over a horizontal line.

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